

MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2025 EDITION

w6ba.net

[Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club](https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub)



Rob **WO4ROB**, Andy **KR6GAX**, and Virginia (a community member) gather around Rob's station. – Photo by **KO6DAV**

Winter Field Day At YMCC

By Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, submitted on January 28, 2025

The club held it's Winter Field Day at the Yucca Mesa Community Center this past weekend.

What is Winter Field Day? From the [Winter Field Day Association](https://www.winterfieldday.org/):

“Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your your friends, family, or whole club involved. Winter Field Day is organized by the Winter Field Day Association. The association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.”

This month's newsletter includes a number of stories and photos from and of club members attending Winter Field Day. If you're not yet a member of the club, we invite you to find out more about out club at w6ba.net. ---

Information At A Glance

Upcoming Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings are on the 3rd Saturday, every month, at 1400.

Date & Time Location

Feb 15 @ 1400 [Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)
Mar 15 @ 1400 [Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)
Apr 19 @ 1400 [Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)

Local Nets

Net Name	Day & Time
Amateur Radio Emergency Service	MON @ 1915
MBARC Weekly Net	TUE @ 1900
MBARC “Cawfee Tawk”	DAILY @ 1000

MBARC Linked Repeater System

For more info, see the [2nd to last page](#) for detailed diagram of the **MBARC Linked Repeater System** or visit w6ba.net.

Site	MHz	+/-	
W6BA Yucca Valley / Paxton Hill	146.790	–	136.5
W6BA Twentynine Palms / Donnell Hill	147.060	+	136.5
WB6CDF Landers / Fire Station	447.580	–	173.8
AD6G Pipes Canyon	446.120	Ø	146.2

Local VoIP-to-RF Nodes

System	# Node	RF Link
AllStarLink	503088	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	KM6IAU-L	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	WO4ROB-L	WO4ROB to W6BA YV

Local RF-to-VoIP Nodes

Site	MHz	+/-		System	# Node/TG
KD6DIQ YV	145.770	Ø	67.0	AllStar	28855
WB6CDF YV	447.000	–	10	DMR/BM	TS1: TG 3106 TS2: TG 2

MBARC Board of Directors

<i>President</i> --- Paul Edwards	AA6SM
<i>Vice President</i> --- Larry Mollica	AD6G
<i>Secretary</i> --- Jake Jakubowski	N6XIV
<i>Treasurer</i> --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW
<i>Board Member</i> --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
<i>Board Member</i> --- Bryan Heveron	KF6YGK
<i>Repeater Trustee</i> --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW

MBARC Beacon --- FEB 2025 EDITION




<i>Editor</i> --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
<i>Photos</i> --- Maja Chesney	KO6DAV
	Kathie Edwards
<i>Contributors</i> --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
	Rob Cloutier
	WO4ROB
	Larry Mollica
	AD6G
	Glenn Miller
	N6GIW
	Keith Board
	N6GKB

Table of Contents

Winter Field Day At YMCC.....	1
Winter Field Day 2025 Stories.....	3
Winter Field Day 2025 Photos.....	4
Larry's Tedious Trivia.....	6
Club History – April 1993.....	6
Meeting Minutes – January 2025.....	7
Member Birthdays – February 2025.....	8
Upcoming Event Fliers.....	8
Linked Repeater System Overview.....	9
Calendar – February 2025.....	10
KD6DIQ AllStarLink Node#28855 Schedule.....	10

Your Newsletter, Your Voice.

If you have material you'd like to share in a future newsletter, [get in touch](#).




 Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**
 [442-205-1873](tel:442-205-1873), extension 5
 Aaron@KM6IAU.net

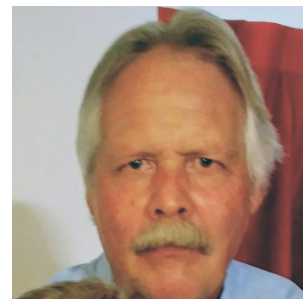
President's Message

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Winter Field Day a resounding success! Many club members attended, several participated and three of us spent the entire night at the Yucca Mesa Community Center. We even had visitors from people in the community who gained knowledge about amateur radio in general (particularly when they could see what was happening) as well as increased awareness of what amateur radio does for the community when a real emergency occurs. I look forward to seeing this type of participation during summer Field Day 2025!

Suggestions as to where we want to go and what we want to do as a club are always welcome. I can be contacted at the club's email address w6ba.condition765@slmail.me and I will always respond to any serious query. After all, this is your club!

73s,

 Paul Edwards **AA6SM**
 [262-412-7323](tel:262-412-7323)
 w6ba.condition765@slmail.me



A collection of contributions, attributed. – Submitted January 27~28, 2025

Here are a couple of submissions from club members about our Winter Field Day held at the Yucca Mesa Community Center on January 25th and 26th.

From Rob **W04ROB**

The **MBARC** Winter Field Day 2025 was a success! A big thank you to all who joined me and shared your stories, equipment, generosity, talents, gadgets, ideas, and labor to make this an enjoyable event. A big shout out to Judy, Kathie, and Maja for providing the delicious food. Thank you!

We had 15 people at the Yucca Mesa Community Center on Saturday 25 January. Larry set up his radio station, which made over 130 contacts. Andy, Lis, and I also had HAM related tables set up. Field Day is designed to dust off your radio equipment, set it up in a remote area, and make as many contacts as you can throughout the world during the event. But, Field Day is also an event that creates an environment where folks can share their life experiences, ideas, projects, and skills. It builds camaraderie, friendship, trust, respect, and a unique bond in the radio community.

During the event we installed, deployed, tested, configured, and utilized radio equipment. A lot of us learned something while we installed HamClock on an Inovato Quadra Computer, or used an SWR meter to check the effectiveness of a handheld radio antenna, or troubleshooted a tuner that did not work with an attached radio. Larry raised an end-fed multi-band antenna, and I raised a 20-meter dipole antenna. We both used solar panels to charge our 12-volt batteries. We learned how to stabilize our outdoor equipment due to the high winds we had during the event.

Thank you to everyone who shared this event with me. I am looking forward to the summer field day on Saturday 28 June.

From Larry AD6G

I'd like to thank everyone who came to Winter Field Day at the Yucca Mesa Community Center last weekend. I especially thank those who contributed work and/or foodstuffs to the event. Jake **N6XIV** and Andy **KR6GAX** assisted me with my HF setup and tear down; that was a big help.

The contest ran from Saturday 08:00 local to Sunday 13:59. I started operating at around 09:40 Saturday, and my last contact was at 11:23 Sunday. Guest operators Clifford **KK6QMS** and Aaron **KM6IAU** operated my station for a while on Saturday, giving me a chance to goof off.

Operator	Contacts
AD6G	94
KK6QMS	39
KM6IAU	4
Total	137

I was able to work 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2 meter bands. That was just with one contact each on 80 and 2 meters, but that's enough to qualify for the six band score multiplier. My rig was powered by a 100Ah lithium iron phosphate battery, charged by a 200 Watt portable folding solar panel. However this doesn't qualify for the alternative power multiplier, because the WFD rules specify that heating must also not be run on commercial power. Oh well. But in this case I happily opted for comfort over scoring.

Initially I thought I'd keep going until the contest end, but I ran out of enthusiasm a bit earlier than I expected.

This turned out to be a good thing because as I began my drive home it started to sprinkle up on the mesa. Taking down an antenna in the rain was something I could do without, so no regrets.

All in all, a good time. Looking forward to a good turnout at this summer's Field Day.

From Aaron **KM6IAU**

My favorite thing about Field Day is the community and fellowship. Even when resources are limited (or perhaps “especially when”), I find it heartwarming when our club comes together to make for a better experience. I think this Winter Field Day was an excellent example of that.

So let's forestall the inevitable tech discussion a moment longer and recognize how especially wonderful it was for Judy **KK6NWG**, Kathie, and Maja **KO6DAV** to ensure that everyone was well fed throughout this entire event. I believe actions like these are positively transformative to the spirit of our club. Thank you.

Probably, for me anyway, the next most exciting thing about Field Day events is the hands-on element to our hobby. Sometimes on-air discussion about what we're doing or how something works is no match for the seeing-is-believing, hands-on experience which Field Day seems to always provide for the asking. Thanks to those who brought equipment, even if merely for display. If the food wasn't so darn good and plentiful, this would have been my favorite part of Winter Field Day, by far.

I left Winter Field Day with a renewed desire to build and bring my own portable station for the next event. Thanks to all for that. ---

Winter Field Day 2025 Photos

Photos by Maja Chesney KO6DAV and Kathie Edwards. – Submitted January 27~28, 2025



Winter Field Day 2025 Photos, continued

Photos by Maja Chesney KO6DAV and Kathie Edwards. – Submitted January 27~28, 2025



Larry's Tedious Trivia

By Larry Mollica **AD6G** – Submitted December 18, 2024

December 12 marked the 63rd anniversary of the launch of the first amateur radio (beacon) satellite OSCAR I in 1961, from what is now Vandenberg Space Force Base. Per AMSAT:

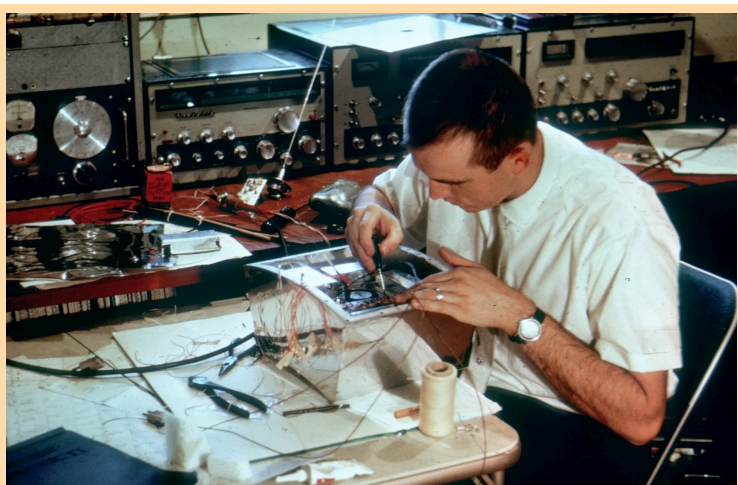
“[OSCAR I] was the very first satellite to be ejected as a secondary payload from a primary launch vehicle and then enter a separate orbit. [...] OSCAR I was an overwhelming success. More than 570 amateurs in 28 countries forwarded observations to the Project OSCAR data reduction center. Unfortunately, OSCAR I lasted only 22 days in orbit before burning up as it re-entered the atmosphere. But Amateur Radio’s “low tech” entry into the “high tech” world of space had been firmly secured. When scientific and other groups asked the Air Force for advice on secondary payloads, the Air Force suggested they study the OSCAR design.”

I have a couple of observations about the photo of Lance **K6GSJ** working on OSCAR I. First, I think it's safe to assume that this (just 4 years after [Sputnik](#)) was the first orbital satellite that was assembled on a folding card table in somebody's basement. *I just love that!* Second, I'm also enjoying that the first ham satellite is going together just a few feet away from all those Heathkit "heavy iron" tube rigs in Lance's basement shack. That was *current equipment* in the Heathkit catalog at the time.

... And when I say “heavy”, Heathkits from left to right:

- * HX-30 Transmitter, 6 meters AM/CW/SSB
... 40 pounds.
- * RX-1 "Mohawk" Receiver, AM/CW/SSB 160 ~ 10 meters
... 52 pounds.
- * TX-1 "Apache" Transmitter, CW/AM 80 ~ 10 meters
... 95 pounds of 150-watt plate-modulated AM.

To date, none of the above Heathkits have been put into orbit.



Lance Ginner **K6GSJ** builds OSCAR I in his basement workshop. – Photo and caption source: [amsat.org](#), reproduced here under Fair Use.



Lance Ginner **K6GSJ** with the flight model of OSCAR I. – Photo and caption source: [amsat.org](#), reproduced here under Fair Use.

Club History – APRIL 1993

By Glenn Miller **N6GIW**, submitted on November 18, 2024

Officers were:

President	Mike Chlebic WB8RVV
Vice-President	Larry Bishop KC6PRH
Corresponding Secretary	Glenn Miller N6GIW
Recording Secretary	Rick Waggoner KC4NSE
Treasurer	Katrina Chlebic KD6IBZ

Board of Directors: Ray Poisson (past president), Stan Spaeth (repeater chairman), Bob Kalauokaaea, Jerry Ducey, Bryon Noonan, Noel Edwards, Pat Fleming, and Brain Burke.

Paid membership was 130, with 50 members also belonging to the ARRL.

Approval was verbally received by Noel **W6IF** from the Twentynine Palms water district for a 420 MHz link project at

our site on Donnell Hill. Approval will also be needed from the Yucca Valley Water District for our site on Paxton Hill.

There was a Volunteer Examiner test session held at the Yucca Mesa Community Center on March 27th. Thirty five applicants appeared and 22 new licenses were generated.

A project to enhance the operation of the Twentynine Palms repeater was completed. Several members assisted. The goal was to repair the driver stage of the repeater, raise the 440 MHz linking tower, and replace an RF connector in the GE repeater.

Future project for 29 Palms will be installing a new firmware chip and install a voice synthesizer board in the SCOM 7K controller.

Larry **WB9LOZ** submitted an instructive article in the newsletter to help people who are attempting to get on the air with Packet radio.

73,
Glenn **N6GIW**
(I kept a lot of old MarcGrams and meeting minutes) ---



January 2025 **MBARC** club meeting. – Photo by Kathie Edwards.

Meeting Minutes – JANUARY 2025

Submitted by Jake Jakubowski **N6XIV**, Club Secretary, on January 21, 2025

The President Paul Edwards **AA6SM** opened the meeting at 1400 and introduced the new officers.

The new officers announced themselves to the members followed by each member giving his name, call sign and residence town.

The club president, Paul Edwards, was approved by the membership to have his signature added to the club's checking account.

The new Secretary Jake **N6XIV** read the minutes of the December 2024 meeting.

The treasurer's report was given by Glenn **N6GIW**.

Rob **W4ROB** spoke about the winter Radio Field Day starting 0800 on Saturday, 25 January to 1200 on Sunday, 26 January. A short mention of the Summer Field day followed.

There was a discussion among members for an opportunity to acquire a trailer and a vertical mast but assembly work needed to be performed on it.

Club President Paul Edwards **AA6SM** spoke about new Ham Radio

Frequencies available. A short discussion by members followed.

Treasured Glenn **N6GIW** spoke about the need to take down the Outhouse at the repeater site. A number of members volunteered to help.

A 50/50 drawing was conducted by Keith **N6GKB** and Keith himself won the raffle.

18 **MBARC** members were present.




The meeting was adjourned at 1450 by Paul Edwards **AA6SM**. ---

Member Birthdays – FEBRUARY 2025

On behalf of the club, I extend our warmest birthday wishes to all our cherished members celebrating a birthday this month.

May your special day bring joy, love, and peace. Stay happy and blessed.

If you'd like your birthday to be included for recognition here and on the club's [Facebook page](#), [get in touch](#).

 Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**
 [442-205-1983](tel:442-205-1983), extension 6
 maj.chesney@gmail.com



Upcoming Event Fliers

Submitted by Keith Board **N6GKB** on December 23, 2024

**2025 Southwestern Division
Convention**

Yuma Hamfest
Yuma, Arizona
Feb. 14 & 15, 2025



Yuma County Fairgrounds
2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona

www.yumahamfest.org

Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm	Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm	Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon		

Vendors & Exhibitors
Full Seminar Schedule
DXCC Card Checking
Hourly Door Prizes
On-site RV Camping
Hamfest Dinner
ARRL Speakers
Transmitter Hunt
\$15.00 Admission

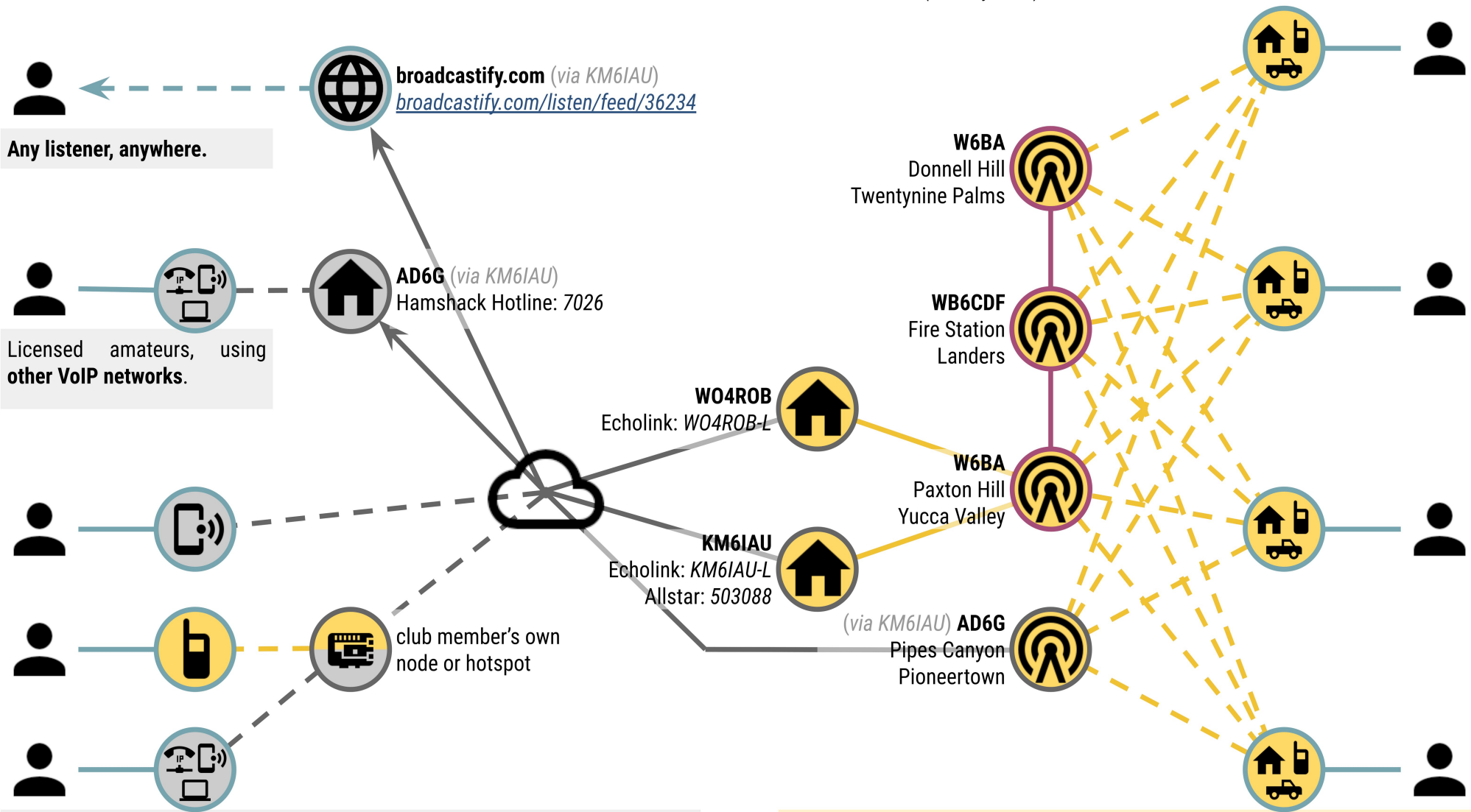
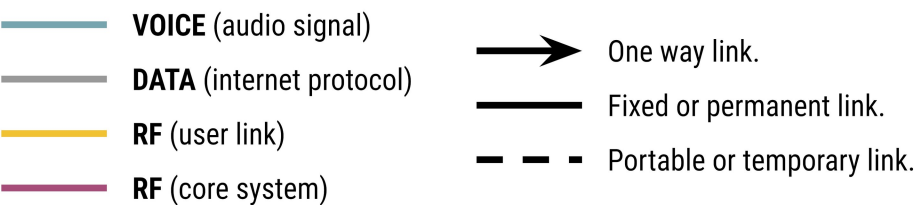
Tailgating (Swap Meet)
License Testing
\$15,000+ in Grand Prizes
Emergency Preparedness
Admission Prizes
Hospitality Area
Near Space Balloon Launch
Antenna Clinic & T-hunt

Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org

Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club

Linked Repeater System Overview

As of December 2024



Licensed amateurs **with** club membership, using **Allstar*** or **Echolink****.

Please use restrictive access means, such as PL tone and low-gain antenna for RF links, or password access for IP links. Do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

Licensed amateurs **with or without** club membership, using **RF**.

Please do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

* Allstar access needs to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.
** Echolink access may need to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.

Calendar – FEBRUARY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31	1
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Aaron KM6IAU				
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Keith N6GKB				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Fred WO6C				1400 – Club mtg, Yucca Mesa Community Center
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Rob WO4ROB				
23	24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Glenn N6GIW	bday: Judy KK6NWG			

KD6DIQ AllStarLink
Node#28855 Schedule

YV: 145.77MHz, Øshift, ☐67.0Hz

EVERYDAY

0000 – 0100 WIN System #2560
2200 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SUN

No additional program, system open.

MON

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332

TUE

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

WED

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

THU

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

FRI

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1830 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SAT

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1720 Newsline
2000 – 2200 East Coast Refl. #45225